

THE CARGO COURIER

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123rd Airlift Wing receives ninth Outstanding Unit Award

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

The Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Airlift Wing received its ninth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in February, making it the most decorated unit in the Air National Guard.

The Secretary of the Air Force awards this honor to units that have distinguished themselves by exceptionally meritorious service of national or international significance.

The wing earned the award for its service from August 31, 1995 to August 30, 1997.

"This represents a lot of hard work by a lot of people over the past two years," said Col. Michael Harden, commander of the 123rd Airlift Wing.

"It shows that the men and women of the Kentucky Air Guard are dedicated to maintaining the wing's long tradition of excellence and service.

"We hear a lot about the core values — integrity first, service before self and excellence in all we do. By winning this award, our folks have shown that they live them, as well."

The wing's accomplishments during the two-year period include overseas deployments to Bosnia to provide theater airlift for operations Joint Endeavor and Joint Guard, and Iraq to enforce the no-fly zone as an airlift component for Operation Southern Watch.

During Kentucky's devastating floods



Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG

Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery, the Kentucky Air Guard's first commander, helps the wing's current commander, Col. Michael Harden, attach a streamer representing the ninth Outstanding Unit Award to the unit's guidon during Heritage Day ceremonies last month. See related story, Page 4.

last year, members of the 123rd Airlift Wing were activated in record numbers to provide security, civil engineering, communications and medical services to citizens of the Commonwealth.

The Kentucky Air Guard also hosted and orchestrated one of the nation's largest celebrations of the Air Force's 50th anniversary during Thunder Over Louisville last year.

"The 123rd Airlift Wing is consistently at the forefront of world and national events," said Brig. Gen. John R. Groves, Kentucky's adjutant general.

"In every arena of operations, the men and

women of the Kentucky Air National Guard have sought out the most demanding challenges, accomplished them superbly and asked for more."

The 123rd earned its eighth Air Force Outstanding Unit Award in 1994 for being among the first to volunteer for humanitarian relief missions to aid Americans hit by Hurricane Andrew and the victims of famine and civil war in Somalia, Bosnia and Rwanda.

The unit's first award of this coveted decoration came on the heels of its activation during the Pueblo Incident in 1968.

Headquarters also honored

• SEE STORY, PAGE 3.

Service demands full-time dedication

A powerful, harmonious military organization, comprised of proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms, prepared to successfully wage war, and provide world class service to community, state and nation.

In the last issue of the Cargo Courier, I began to break the Vision Statement of the 123rd into its various parts in an attempt to make sure that every member of the wing understands what it is that we want to be so we can all travel down the same road to get there.

We talked about what kind of an organization we want to be — a powerful, harmonious military organization — and what that entailed. This month, I want to talk about what kind of people are needed to fulfill the second part of the vision: proud citizens, dedicated to the profession of arms.

We must never forget that every member of the 123rd joined because he or she wanted to. He joined because he liked the extra money and educational benefits. Or because she liked airplanes and wanted to fly or be around them. Others sought the camaraderie of a military organization.

One thing that everyone has in common, however, is pride in our nation and a sense of obligation as a citizen of this great country. Because we are fortunate to be a part of this great state and nation, we feel an obligation to serve. That is why we never lack for people to volunteer and answer the bell when we are called to support contingency operations abroad or emergency operations in Kentucky.

We are — and always want to be — an organization that responds not because of coercion or arm-twisting, or fear of the boss; but because of a sense of obligation and duty



Col. Michael L. Harden
123rd Airlift Wing Commander

to community, state, and nation. We must continue to capitalize on this concept of citizenship and the pride that results when people realize the obligations inherent in the concept, and then fulfill that obligation.

Never before in the modern history of our country has such a small percentage of our population served in the military. This is true in our neighborhoods, as well as City Hall, the state legislature, Congress and the White House. Because of this, we can only survive and flourish if our pride in citizenship is so visible that it creates a highly positive impression and has a lasting effect upon our neighbors as well as our leaders.

Our pride and enthusiasm must be contagious if we are to recruit our neighbors and win the support of our elected officials.

Along with pride in citizenship, our folks must be dedicated to the profession of arms.

We must realize that the military is not

merely a job, it is a way of life. Every member of this organization must look at himself or herself not as a part-time airman, NCO or officer, but as a full-time airman, NCO or officer with part-time availability.

We are members of the military all of the time even though we are on duty only some of the time.

As members of the military, we have certain obligations such as adhering to regulatory requirements and living up to the tenets of duty, honor, country and the core values of integrity, service before self and excellence in all we do. We also need empathy and a spirit of fun.

NCOs and officers must think of themselves as leaders and live up to the responsibility of leadership. Airmen must constantly strive to learn more and become the best order clerks, wrench benders or services people in the Air Force.

We all must remember that we are a part of the strongest military in the world. We represent, and are a product of, all of those proud airmen who came before us, and we must never do anything that will bring dishonor on this unit and those who served before us.

The profession of arms, like citizenship has some unique obligations that take dedication and commitment to fulfill. Just as we are citizens all of the time, we are members of the profession of arms all of the time. They both require dedication, pride and commitment.

Next month we will talk about the final piece of our vision so that we will all have an understanding of what we really want to be.

—Thanks loads

Michael L. Harden

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If you have a story idea, photo or article to submit, stop by the PA office, room 2117 of the Wing Headquarters Building. Deadline for the next issue is May 26.

Headquarters staff honored for organizational excellence

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

In January, the Kentucky Air National Guard Headquarters received its third Air Force Organizational Excellence Award for exceptionally meritorious service from May 1, 1995 to 30 April 1997.

The Secretary of the Air Force presents this award to unnumbered units such as major commands and headquarters that have distinguished themselves by performance significantly above that of similar units.

During this period, headquarters members led the way in proactive support to civil authorities, efficiently coordinating the largest call-up ever of Kentucky Air National Guard personnel during the worst flood in more than 40 years.

They also conceived, planned and executed the monumental task of hosting one of the marquee celebrations of the Air Force and Air National Guard golden anniversaries during Thunder Over Louisville.

Nearly a million spectators attended the gala celebration, which combined the largest air show in the world with the largest fireworks demonstration of the year and focused unprecedented peacetime attention on our nation's Air Force.

The dedication and functional area expertise of headquarters members were invaluable to their subordinate units and directly contributed to the success of the 123rd Airlift Wing's first complete operational readiness inspection since its conversion to the C-130 aircraft.

"This award underscores the dynamic leadership and functional area expertise the headquarters brings to the Kentucky Air National Guard," said Brig. Gen. Verna D. Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air.

"This small cadre of 23 men and women have taken on several new challenges and have set the standard of performance for other Air National Guard headquarters organizations to meet."

Guardsman and son running in marathon to fight leukemia

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Senior Master Sgt. Gene Kemp is used to analyzing military forces as the NCOIC of intelligence in the 123rd Operations Support Flight.

He knows when an enemy is outgunned, and he knows when a battle is winnable.

Perhaps that expertise is what's fueling his desire to help stamp out leukemia, a cancer of the body's blood-forming tissues that is the nation's number one killer of children.

On June 21, Gene and his 12-year-old son, Jared, will be two of the 6,000 footsoldiers running in the Leukemia Society of America's nationally televised Rock 'n' Roll Marathon in San Diego Calif.

To participate in the 26.2-mile foot race, Gene and Jared still have to raise \$1,500 in donations, which will be among the \$10 mil-

lion the society hopes to raise from the event to help fund medical research.

Gene says he is confident the money can be found.

"We're going to make it if I have to reach in my own pocket and make up the difference," he said.

Gene and his son are both avid runners, but they want to participate in the marathon for more than the joy of running.

"What we're doing could help save some kid's life," Gene said.

The guardsman and his son been paired with a young leukemia victim named Bobby Childers, who, coincidentally, was born on the same day as Jared.

"When they handed me his card with his name and birthday on it, my jaw dropped because I couldn't believe it," Gene said.

See MARATHON, Page 4

Tribute dinner held Thursday for Lt. Gen. Ardery

The Kentucky Air Guard's first commander, Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery, was honored Thursday evening during a tribute dinner at the Seelbach hotel.

The dinner, which included a speech by Gen. Russell Dougherty, former commander-in-chief of the Strategic Air Command, was organized by Wellspring, a regional agency dedicated to providing housing and rehabilitative services for the mentally ill.

Ardery co-founded Wellspring 16 years ago and continues to play a major role in its development, said the program's director, Jackie Swigart.

"We want to build stronger connections to the men and women who have served or are now serving in our armed forces," Swigart said. "Military families, like all families, can be touched by disabling mental illness."

Deadline nears in ANG golf tourney

The deadline to enter this year's Air National Guard Golf Tournament is May 31.

The tournament will be held June 17-19 at Baytree Golf Plantation in North Myrtle Beach, S.C. The entree fee is \$100 per person.

For more information, contact Buddy McDaniel at 1 (800) 436-9392. ☎

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Heritage Day pays tribute to wing's leaders

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Nearly 1,500 current and former members of the Kentucky Air Guard gathered at Male High School last drill to pay tribute to the men and women who have made the unit what it is today.

More than a half-dozen commanders and their families were honored for their dedication and sacrifice in building one of the most decorated units in the Air Force, dating back to the unit's founding under the leadership of Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery and Judge Henry Meigs.

U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford also was honored for his continuing support of the unit, prompting the current wing commander, Col. Michael Harden, to call him "the best friend the Kentucky Air Guard has ever had."

The ceremony featured a multimedia historical presentation, with each era in the wing's past being represented by a specially commissioned Bob Conely aircraft portrait that was unveiled by the honorees.

"This was a wonderful way to honor those who have gone before us," Harden said of the ceremony. "These are the leaders who established the tradition of excellence that defines who we are today."

TOP RIGHT: Honorees at Heritage Day were, from left to right, Lt. Col. Ken Walker, Brig. Gen. Larry Quebbeman, Judge Henry Meigs, Maj. Gen. Carl Black, Lt. Col. Paul Rhodes, Maj. Gen. Richard Frymire, Col. Michael Harden, U.S. Sen. Wendell Ford, Maj. Gen. Stewart Byrne, Lt. Gen. John Conaway, Maj. Gen. Philip Ardery, Brig. Gen. Fred Bradley and Col. Jim Long.

BOTTOM RIGHT: Maj. Gen. Carl Black signs a print of a Kentucky RF-4C after the ceremony.



Photos by Tech. Sgt. Charles Simpson/KyANG

Marathon

Continued from Page 3

"Here's Jared running in this marathon, and Bobby can only watch from the sidelines. It kind of hit home when I thought about that."

Gene said Bobby is a "wonderful kid" whose cancer has been in remission since he completed a course of chemotherapy about four years ago.

"Once a victim has been in remission for five years, they pretty much declare them out of the woods, so Bobby is really looking forward to that," Gene said.

The guardsman hopes his fund-raising efforts will mean more happy endings like Bobby's. It also will allow him to spend some meaningful time with his son on Father's Day.

"It's nice when you're running to have a goal rather than just going out and pounding out the miles," he said. "I thought that if Jared and I could spend some time together and do some good for somebody at the same time — what a good thing."

Gene and Jared have been preparing for the marathon by running at least five days a week. It's a challenging and time-consuming schedule, but Gene said the training regimen is a small price to pay to defeat leukemia.

Overall survival rates for leukemia have more than doubled in the past 30 years, rising from 14 percent in 1960 to 40 percent today.

The Leukemia Society predicts that a cure for some forms of the disease is less than three years away.

To sponsor the Kemps with a tax-deductible donation to the Leukemia Society of America, contact Gene at (205) 461-8661.



Airshow draws 63,000 to base

Thunder Over Louisville again focused the Commonwealth's attention on the U.S. Air Force and Kentucky Air National Guard this year, drawing more than 20,000 visitors to the wing's static display April 18 and an additional 450,000 to the riverfront for aerial demonstrations.

Thirty-five aircraft were featured in the static display this year, including a German Tornado, the F-117 Stealth Fighter, two B-1 Lancers, an AV-8B Harrier and the U.S. Air Force's A-10 Thunderbolt Demonstration Team.



Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG

ABOVE: Hundreds of visitors took the opportunity to see inside this KC-135 refueler during the static display on base.



LEFT: Logan Vaughn of Louisville tries out the driver's seat in the C-141 Starlifter.

Staff Sgt. Mark Rines/KyANG



Staff Sgt. David Altom/KyArNG

ABOVE and RIGHT: Members of the wing's 123rd Special Tactics Flight demonstrate their abilities during the airshow by repelling from this Kentucky Army Guard helicopter and boarding a Zodiac raft to accomplish simulated assaults.



Master Sgt. Terry Lutz/KyANG

ABOVE: The Harrier made its first appearance at Thunder this year.

First dining out promises fun, fellowship

Director of Air Guard to speak

By Maj. Ralinda Gregor
KyANG Chief of Public Affairs

"Ladies and gentlemen, the mess is convened."

Kentucky Air National Guard members will once again hear these words at the first annual dining out August 15.

Fine food, fun and fellowship are planned for all current and retired KyANG members and their spouses or guests when the mess convenes at the Club Hotel by Doubletree.

Maj. Gen. Paul Weaver Jr., director of the Air National Guard, will be the event's guest speaker, said Col. Rick Ash, who is project officer for the dining out.

"Maj. Gen. Weaver has dubbed this the 'year of the family,' so it's especially appropriate that he and his wife join us and our spouses for this fun evening," Ash said.

Although the KyANG has had dining ins in the past, this will be the unit's first dining out, he added.

"This will be a unique opportunity for our active and retired members to gather together for an enjoyable social event," said Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, assistant adjutant general for air.

"Last month's Heritage Day was a wonderful way for us to celebrate our legacy of excellence. This summer's dining out will celebrate our friendships as members of the Guard family."

Ash promises a stimulating experience.

"If you're looking for a stuffy evening and long boring speeches, you might want to stay home and watch C-SPAN that evening," Ash said.

The planning committee is making arrangements to have one of the premier Air Force entertainment units perform a night-club-style show at the dining out, Ash said.

Members of the mess will have a choice of two meals — grilled chicken breast with red pepper coulis sauce or pork tenderloin with a dijon mustard, brandy and peppercorn sauce, said Lt. Col. John Amshoff, the mess officer.

The cost per person is \$18 for airmen through technical sergeants, \$25 for senior NCOs, \$27 for company-grade officers and \$30 for flag and field-grade officers.

The uniform for officers is mess dress. Enlisted members may wear the mess dress or semi-formal uniform (see box).

Civilian men may wear a dark business suit or tuxedo. Civilian women may wear a long or short dress.

Unit members and retirees will be receiving invitations and reply cards by mail this month, Ash said. Replies and checks for the dinner should be returned by July 12.

The Club Hotel by Doubletree is located at 9700 Bluegrass Parkway and formerly was the Hurstbourne Hotel.

Anyone who does not receive an invitation should contact his or her orderly room. Retirees may call Chief Master Sgt. Jim Turpin at (502) 564-8489 if they do not receive invitations.

Tips for formal and semi-formal dress

- Check AFI 36-2903 for detailed instructions on the wear of mess dress and semi-formal dress uniforms.

- Call AAFES at 1 (800) 527-2345 to order uniform items, or take a road trip to Wright-Patterson Air Force Base clothing sales.

- Update your ribbons or medals. In addition to AAFES, several civilian companies can provide custom ribbon and miniature medal sets.

M E S S D R E S S

- Wear the cummerbund with pleats facing up for men, down for women.

- Badges, cuff link and studs must be highly polished or satin finished — do not mix finishes.

- Aeronautical and chaplain badges are mandatory; the rest are optional. Wear them 1/2 inch above medals.

- Check the fit of your pants or skirt; it's amazing how they "shrink" as you get older.

S E M I - F O R M A L D R E S S

- This is essentially your service dress uniform with a white point-collar shirt. Men can buy the shirt anywhere. Women may have a difficult time finding this style anywhere but AAFES.

- Men wear a blue or black satin bow tie or the blue herringbone tie; women wear a blue inverted-V or black crescent satin tie-tab.

- Aeronautical and chaplain badges are mandatory; the rest are optional. Wear them 1/2 inch above ribbons.

- Wear all or some of your ribbons

M A T E R N I T Y U N I F O R M

- There is actually a mess dress maternity jumper! Consult AFI 36-2903 for details.

Snow bound

Wing joins Army Guard to help state dig out

By Staff Sgt. David Altom
Kentucky Army National Guard

Kenneth Isaacs had a serious problem. As mayor of McKee, Ky., he was doing everything he could to make sure that the people he'd sworn to serve were being cared for during one of the worst snowstorms in state history.

But some things, it seemed were just beyond his power.

"In one of our apartment buildings we had an elderly resident who was on oxygen," he explained, "and the bottle had run out. We'd put a call into Patty A. Clay hospital in Richmond for some help, but with the weather the way it was, nobody could get through.

"We were all pretty worried about what we should do ... and then here came a Kentucky Guard humvee up the road."

In the humvee were enough oxygen bottles to see the infirmed resident through the crisis.

"They saved a life that day," Isaacs said. "I don't have enough good things to say about the Guard. They were really good to us."

Similar scenes were repeated in more than half of Kentucky's 120 counties this winter when record snowfalls struck the Commonwealth in February, stranding thousands of people and putting lives at risk throughout the state.

More than 1,100 Kentucky National Guard airmen and soldiers responded to the emergency, bringing aid and comfort wherever they could.

Meeting the basic human needs became the focus in the hardest hit areas.

With snow drifts reported as high as three feet, blocking roads and downing power lines, conditions deteriorated to the point

where survival was a serious concern.

In the first few hours of the crisis, a UH-60 Blackhawk helicopter from the 63rd Aviation Group was dispatched to rescue a kidney dialysis patient.

Blackhawks and OH-58 Kiowas were also used in search and rescue missions throughout the eastern part of the state, bringing food and supplies to residents isolated by the heavy snow.

On the ground Guard, members transported emergency workers, medical personnel, law enforcement officials and

two armories were opened up as shelters, while two dozen power generators were brought online to run water plants and provide power to shelters affected by the blackout.

Meanwhile, combat engineers from the 206th Engineer Battalion joined forces with the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Civil Engineer Squadron, using chain saws to clear away fallen tree limbs and debris and speed up the restoration of power.

"We couldn't have gotten our equipment in without the Guard's help," said Reed Hall, district manager for Kentucky Utilities in McCreary County.

"They made it possible to bring bucket trucks and linemen. Things would have been much worse without them."

The Kentucky Air Guard provided essential support in other areas of the relief effort, bringing dozens of members from its 123rd Mission Support Flight, 123rd Communications Flight, 123rd Special Tactics Flight and 123rd Security Forces Squadron.

Airmen established and maintained much-needed communications networks, cleared public rights-of-way, delivered medicine to stranded residents and patrolled the interstate highways with local law enforcement personnel.

Gov. Paul E. Patton accompanied Kentucky National Guard troops on a road-clearing mission in McCreary County where he witnessed firsthand the conditions suffered by local residents.

"Our people are having a tough time here, and the National Guard is putting forth an extraordinary effort," he said during a break in the work. "I'm proud of what I'm seeing, and I know everyone here is grateful for their efforts."



Staff Sgt. David Altom/KyArNG

Tech. Sgt. Michael Newman and Staff Sgt. Ralph Duke of the Kentucky Air Guard's 123rd Special Tactics Flight, provided vital communications links in McCreary County.

storm victims through the heavy snow, their humvees a familiar sight on the stark white landscape.

Tactical wreckers were called in to unclog traffic jams caused by those desperate to get to shelter.

But even staying home carried some risk. At one point, an estimated 50,000 households were without power. Twenty-

Moore named to medical unit's top post

By 2nd Lt. Dale Greer
Wing Public Affairs Officer

Lt. Col. J.D. Moore has been named commander of the 123rd Medical Squadron, replacing Col. Charles Bruce after his successful five-year tenure in the top spot.

Moore has been a member of the medical unit since 1977 and is the first dental surgeon to serve as its commander.

"When I first came in the Guard, it was not possible for anyone other than a physician to become commander of a medical squadron," Moore explained. "That policy changed several years ago, and since that time, we've had two nurses who became

squadron commanders. The first of those was now-Brig. Gen. Verna Fairchild, who's been my mentor. She's been very encouraging to all of us and has shepherded me along to remind me that this kind of position is attainable by a non-physician"

Moore said he is excited about the challenge of leading the squadron as it faces an increasingly demanding ops tempo.

"We've been kind of a well-kept secret, and now that we have the largest medical asset in the state because of cutbacks in the Army Guard, our people are going to be subjected to more call-ups for civil and natural disasters. During the flooding last year, our people responded in exemplary

fashion, which is what happens any time we go anywhere.

"If anybody ever has the idea, 'Oh no, here comes a Guard unit,' when we're done with them, they've got a different view.

"We have such good people in the squadron. That's the main reason why I took the job."

Moore also had praise for his predecessor, whom he said was fine physician and a skilled commander.

"Dr. Bruce did an outstanding job," Moore said.

"He left the squadron in excellent shape, and I look forward to expanding on the programs that he developed."

Promotions & retirements in the Air Guard



The following servicemembers have been promoted in the Kentucky Air National Guard and as reservists of the United States Air Force:

TO AIRMAN (E-2)

- Meghann Coffey,
123rd Security Forces Sq.
- Virgil Cook,
123rd Logistics Sq.

TO AIRMAN 1ST CLASS (E-3)

- Jonathan Coulter,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Kristie Harden,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Robert Huff,
123rd Student Flt.
- Jerome Noltemeyer,
123rd Aerial Port Sq.
- Mary Stansberry,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

TO SENIOR AIRMAN (E-4)

- John Johnson,
123rd Communications Flt.
- Jeremy Kapka,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Brandon Brown,
123rd Maintenance Sq.

TO STAFF SGT. (E-5)

- Clinton Banning,
123rd Student Flt.
- Todd Claypool,
123rd Airlift Wing
- Annette Marshall,
165th Airlift Sq.
- Jeffrey Sarver,
165th Weather Flt.
- Travis Silvers,
123rd Security Forces Sq.

TO TECH. SGT. (E-6)

- Danny Boblitt,
123rd Airlift Control Element
- Jerome Buehner,
123rd Logistics Group
- Mary Decker,
123rd Services Flt.
- Ralph Duke III,
123rd Special Tactics Flt.
- Melissa Evaline,
123rd Services Flt.
- Michael Hedges,
123rd Logistics Sq.
- Shelby Higgs,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Barry Mayfield,
123rd Services Flt.
- Joseph Shelton,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.
- Stephen Snawder,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

- Kristina Swenson,
123rd Medical Sq.
- Kevin Talbert,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.

TO MASTER SGT. (E-7)

- John Emly,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.
- Stephen Hatfield,
123rd Maintenance Sq.
- Erle Montgomery,
123rd Services Flt.

TO CHIEF MASTER SGT. (E-9)

- Richard Cwiak,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.

TO 1ST LIEUTENANT (O-2)

- Carri Welch,
123rd Medical Sq.

The following servicemembers have retired as reservists of the United States Air Force:

- Master Sgt. Kenneth Ashby,
123rd Aircraft Generation Sq.
- Master Sgt. Patrick Bales,
205th Combat Comm. Sq.
- Tech. Sgt. James Bush,
123rd Civil Engineering Sq.